

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 CU-04 EB-08 OMB-01
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R 291949Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4037
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SP
SUBJECT: PSOE ACTIVITIES: GONZALEZ SPEAKS OUT ON THE
CONSTITUTION AND NATO; PSOE DELEGATION TO MAURITANIA
REF: MADRID 2976

1. SUMMARY: DURING A MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE
CANARIES, PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ SINGLED OUT THE
CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES ON EDUCATION AND THE EMPLOYERS'
RIGHT TO FIRE AND USE THE LOCK OUT AS THOSE MOST
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OBJECTIONABLE TO THE SOCIALISTS. HE ALSO REITERATED
THE PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN ORDER SYMBOLICALLY
TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE SPANISHNESS OF THE
CANARIES AND ITS CONCERN OVER CONDITIONS THERE, MET MARCH

27 AND 28 IN THE ARCHIPELAGO. DURING A POST-MEETING MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW, GONZALEZ TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CURRENT IMPORTANCE:

3. THE CONSTITUTION. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER, SAID GONZALEZ, THAT THE PSOE HAD PARTICIPATED IN (AND IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED) THE ELABORATION OF SOME 80 OF THE DRAFT. IF THOSE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE 28 CONCERNING STATE SUPPORT OF PRIVATE EDUCATION AND ARTICLE 32 CONCERNING MANAGEMENT'S RIGHT TO FIRE AND EMPLOY THE LOCK OUT WERE SATISFACTORILY MODIFIED, GONZALEZ CONTINUED, THE PSOE WOULD ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE ENTIRE DRAFT. IF THESE CHANGES WERE NOT MADE, THE SOCIALISTS WOULD NOT RESORT TO A "CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION." THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, INSIST IN THEIR ELECTORAL PROGRAM ON THE AMENDMENT OF THOSE TWO ARTICLES, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF THE "DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING ALTERATIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION OVER THE SHORT TERM."

4. SPAIN AND NATO. GONZALEZ ONCE AGAIN REITERATED THE PSOE'S OPPOSITION TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO: "WE WANT OUR COUNTRY TO MOVE TOWARD EFFECTIVE NEUTRALITY, AND THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ENTRY INTO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE DO NOT CONVINCE US." (THIS REHEARSAL OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LONG-HELD PSOE POSITION APPEARS TO BE IN RESPONSE TO RECENT STATEMENT BY UCD INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY JAVIER RUPEREZ THAT THE PSOE WAS FUZZING ITS POSITION ON NATO.) GONZALEZ PREDICTABLY VIEWED WITH ALARM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FOREIGN BASES IN THE CANARIES. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT UCD "FAVORED TO THE MAXIMUM" THE ALIGNMENT OF SPAIN WITH THE US, AND HE CLOSED BY REPEATING HIS CONVICTION THAT SPAIN COULD ELABORATE A DEFENSE POLICY "JOINTLY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ALSO DESIRE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE ORBIT OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS."

5. THE CANARIES AND THE MAGHREB. GONZALEZ REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED ALGERIA FOR HAVING VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE OAU "RESOLUTION" DECLARING THE CANARIES A COLONY OF SPAIN, BUT HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ALGIERS WOULD CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. THE PSOE INTENDED TO "STRENGTHEN ITS OWN POLICY IN THE AREA," GONZALEZ ADDED, CITING THE PARTY'S CONTACTS WITH THE MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN GOVTS. (COMMENT: THE MARCH 29 MADRID PRESS REPORTS THAT A PSOE DELEGATION LED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS LUIS FAJARDO AND RAFAEL BALLESTEROS WILL TRAVEL TODAY TO NOUAKCHOTT AT THE INVITATION OF THE MAURITANIAN

GOVT. PARTY LEADERS ALSO HAVE MADE A POINT OF TELLING US IN RECENT WEEKS OF THEIR "CONTINUING" CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR FILALI IN MADRID. ALL OF THIS, OF COURSE, IS AN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE THE PSOE'S NEW FOUND "EVEN-HANDEDNESS" IN THE MAGHREB, IN RESPONSE TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM THAT IT HAD IN EFFECT SOLD OUT TO ALGIERS. THIS EVEN-HANDEDNESS IS, HOWEVER, THUS FAR DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE.)

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6. THE PSOE AND THE PCE. WHEN ASKED IF THE PCE'S ABANDONMENT OF LENINISM WOULD BRING ON A PROCESS OF PSOE-PCE UNIFICATION, GONZALEZ REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT, WHILE ONE NEVER SHOULD SAY THAT ANYTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, UNIFICATION WITH THE PCE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE FOR A VERY LONG TIME, IF IT EVER HAPPENED AT ALL.

7. COMMENT. IN SPITE OF THE EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION, GONZALEZ' STATEMENT APPEARS TO REPRESENT

AN IMPORTANT WINNOWING OF THE PSOE'S PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED
SCATTERSHOT OBJECTIONS (REFTEL). THOSE PROVISIONS OF
ARTICLE 28 WHICH, IN COMBINATION, BOTH THE PSOE ARE THE
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FOLLOWING: "THE GOVT WILL GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF ALL
PARENTS TO SEE THAT THEIR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE RELIGIOUS
AND MORAL FORMATION THAT IS IN ACCORD WITH THEIR CONVICTION
...THE GOVT GUARANTEES THE RIGHT OF EVERYONE TO AN
EDUCATION, THROUGH A GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM...AND THE
CREATION AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION CENTERS...THE RIGHT
OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ESTABLISH
AND DIRECT EDUCATION CENTERS IS RECOGNIZED...THE GOVT
WILL ASSIST THOSE EDUCATION CENTERS THAT COMPLY WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW." THE PSOE VIEWS THIS FORMULATION
TO PROVIDE CARTE BLANCHE FOR STATE SUPPORT TO CHURCH
SCHOOLS WITHOUT THE COMPENSATING PROVISION OF COMMUNITY
CONTROL OVER SUCH SCHOOLS. SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO
ALTERNATIVE IN SPAIN TO STATE SUPPORT FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS,
AT LEAST OVER THE SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM, THERE IS PROBABLY
AMPLE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE HERE.

8. AS FOR THE RIGHT TO FIRE AND LOCK OUT PROVISIONS WHICH
SO TROUBLE THE PSOE, ARTICLE 32 STATES: "THE RIGHT TO
FREE ENTERPRISE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A MARKET ECONOMY
IS RECOGNIZED. THE GOVT GUARANTEES AND PROTECTS ITS
EXERCISE AND THE DEFENSE OF PRODUCTIVITY...ENTREPRENEURS
HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADOPT MEASURES OF COLLECTIVE CONFLICT..."
FROM THE GOVT'S POINT OF VIEW, THIS FORMULATION NICELY
BALANCES SIMILAR RIGHTS GIVEN TO LABOR UNIONS IN PRECEDING
ARTICLES, AND IT ALSO IS A REASSURING GESTURE TO THE
BUSINESS COMMUNITY, A VERY IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE
GOVT/UCD POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY. THE PSOE, HOWEVER, HAS
THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET ON THIS ARTICLE, AND THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON IT ARE CERTAIN TO BE TOUGH. STABLER

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